

REMARKS

This is a response to the Final Office Action mailed February 23, 2006, in which the Examiner rejected pending claims 1-4 for non-statutory, obviousness-type double patenting in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,550,486. (Although U.S. Patent No. 6,550,485 was set forth in the Office Action, this is believed to be a typographical error.)


In response to the rejection of claims 1-4, Applicant has executed and filed a terminal disclaimer disclaiming the patent term of the instant application which would extend beyond the term of the commonly owned '486 patent. In view of the terminal disclaimer, withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

In addition to the above enumerated rejections, claims 12-14 were objected to by the Examiner for being dependent upon a rejected base claim. In view of the terminal disclaimer filed herewith, such objections are believed to be moot and are requested to be withdrawn.

Although all issues are believed to have been resolved by this Response, should any issues be determined to remain, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned telephonically so that such issues can be resolved most expeditiously.

A Terminal Disclaimer fee accompanies this response. Should additional fees be required, then please debit the Deposit Account No. 50-0644 and notify the undersigned.


Respectfully submitted,


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CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this Response is being facsimile transmitted to Examiner Frankie L. Stinson at Art Unit 1746 at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Fax No. (571) 273-8308 on April 24, 2006


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